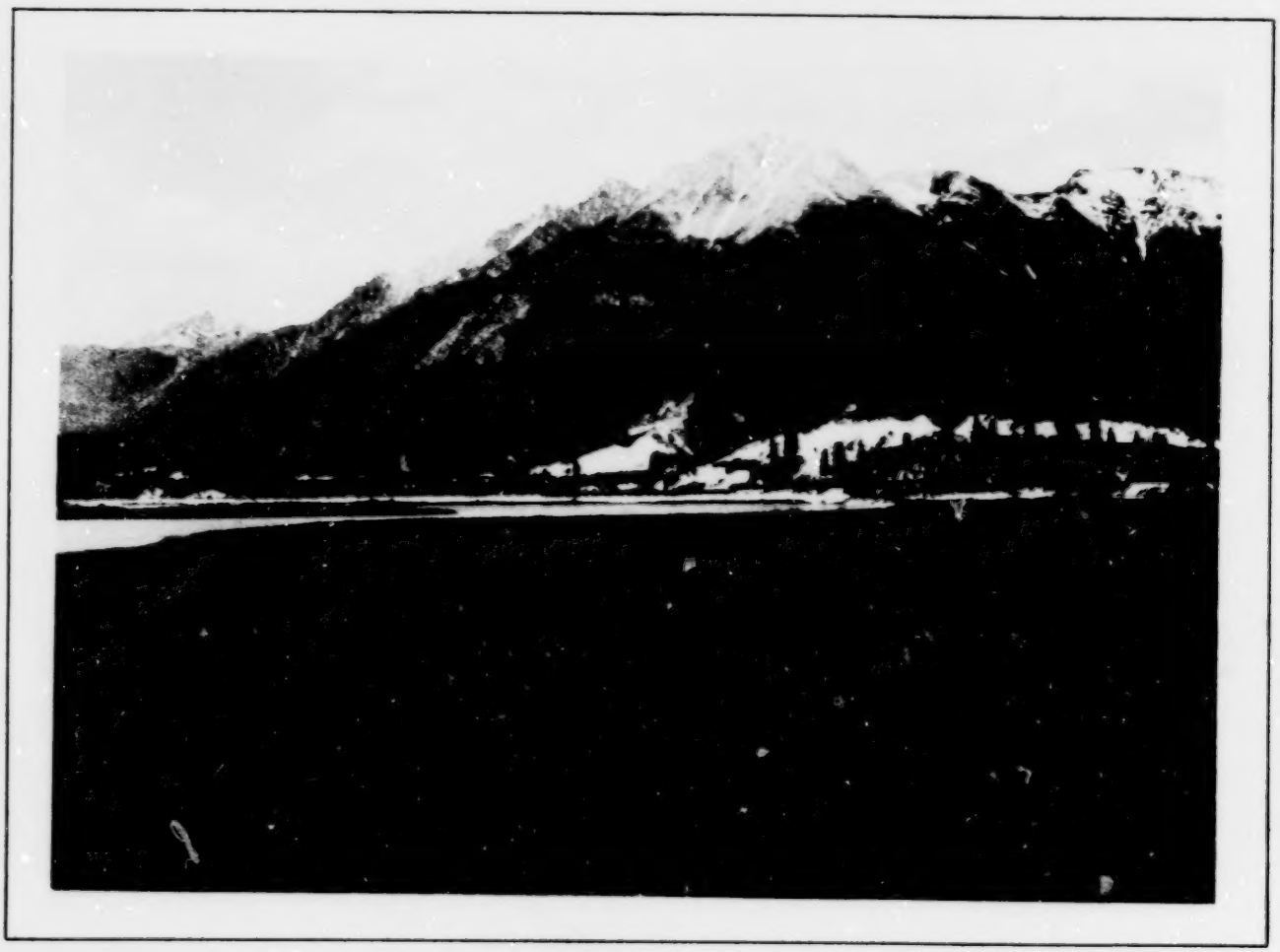
SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH CROWN LAND PLAN



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SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH

SUB-DISTRICT

CROWN LAND PLAN

Prepared By

Lands and Housing Regional Operations Division

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing

Kootenay Region

Cranbrook, B.C.

July, 1984

Province of British Columbia

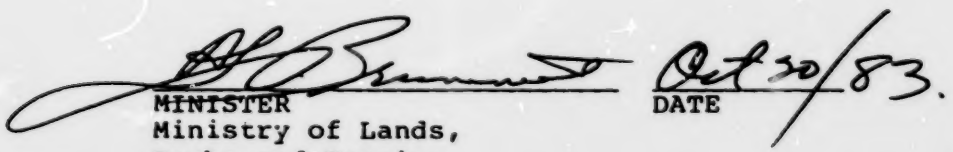
Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing

Victoria

1984

STATEMENT OF PLAN ADOPTION

THE SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH CROWN LAND PLAN HAS BEEN ADOPTED BY THE MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING AND REPRESENTS OFFICIAL MINISTRY POLICY FOR THE PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSITION OF UNALIENATED CROWN LANDS IN THE PLAN AREA. ALL MANAGEMENT, ALLOCATION AND DEVELOPMENT DECISIONS OF THE MINISTRY WITHIN THE PLAN AREA SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE POLICIES CONTAINED WITHIN THIS PLAN AND SHALL BE CONSISTENT WITH THE CROWN LAND DESIGNATIONS OF THE PLAN MAP UNTIL FORMAL REVIEW OF THE PLAN BY OCTOBER, 1988 OR UNTIL FURTHER DETAILED PLANNING INITIATIVES PURSUANT TO THE PLAN AND AS SPECIFIED IN THE PLAN ARE FINALIZED AND APPROVED BY THE MINISTRY OF LANDS, PARKS AND HOUSING AND CONSTITUTE ADDENDUM TO THE PLAN TO PERMIT OTHERWISE. CONFORMANCE OF CROWN LAND USE PROPOSALS WITH THIS PLAN IN NO WAY ABSOLVES THE PROPONENT FROM THE RESPONSIBILITY OF COMPLYING WITH ALL OTHER PERTINENT GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION AND MINISTRY POLICY.



MINISTER
Ministry of Lands,
Parks and Housing

Oct 30/83.
DATE

MINISTRY MANDATE AND PLANNING GOAL

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing has a responsibility for the allocation and management of unalienated Crown Lands in British Columbia. The statutory basis for this mandate is the Land Act.

The Ministry has established a Crown Land Planning Program to assist in fulfilling its responsibilities. The goal of this program is:

> To facilitate and develop plans for management, use and alienation of unreserved Crown Lands in a manner that will optimize the long term economic, social and environmental benefits to the citizens of British Columbia.

A major element of this responsibility is to provide opportunities for the use of Crown Lands for agricultural, commercial industrial, residential and recreational purposes.

Many agencies have planning and resource management responsibilities related to specific resources. Fundamental to the Crown Land Planning Program is the cooperation and involvement of other levels of government, provincial agencies, industry and the public-at-large. The Crown land planning process involves these agencies and groups so that each can provide input to the plan and safeguard their interests within an integrated planning and management framework.

Land use policies and designations made in a Crown Land Plan are not to be confused with land designations and zoning of local government made under the authority of the Municipal Act.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing wishes to express its gratitude to those agencies who have contributed to the preparation of this Plan.

Ministry of Agriculture and Food (Cranbrook and Victoria)

Ministry of Transportation and Highways (Nelson)

Ministry of Forests, Forest Service (Cranbrook)
Timber Division
Range Division
Recreation Division

Ministry of Environment, Water Management Branch (Cranbrook)
Fish and Wildlife Branch (Cranbrook)

Ministry of Municipal Affairs (Victoria)

Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources
(Fernie and Victoria)

Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing
Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division (Nelson)

Ministry of Provincial Secretary and Government Services
Heritage Conservation Branch (Victoria)

Ministry of Health (Cranbrook)

B.C. Agricultural Land Commission (Burnaby)

Regional District of East Kootenay (Cranbrook)

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PART 1.0

SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH CONCEPT PLAN

PART 1.0 SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH CONCEPT PLAN

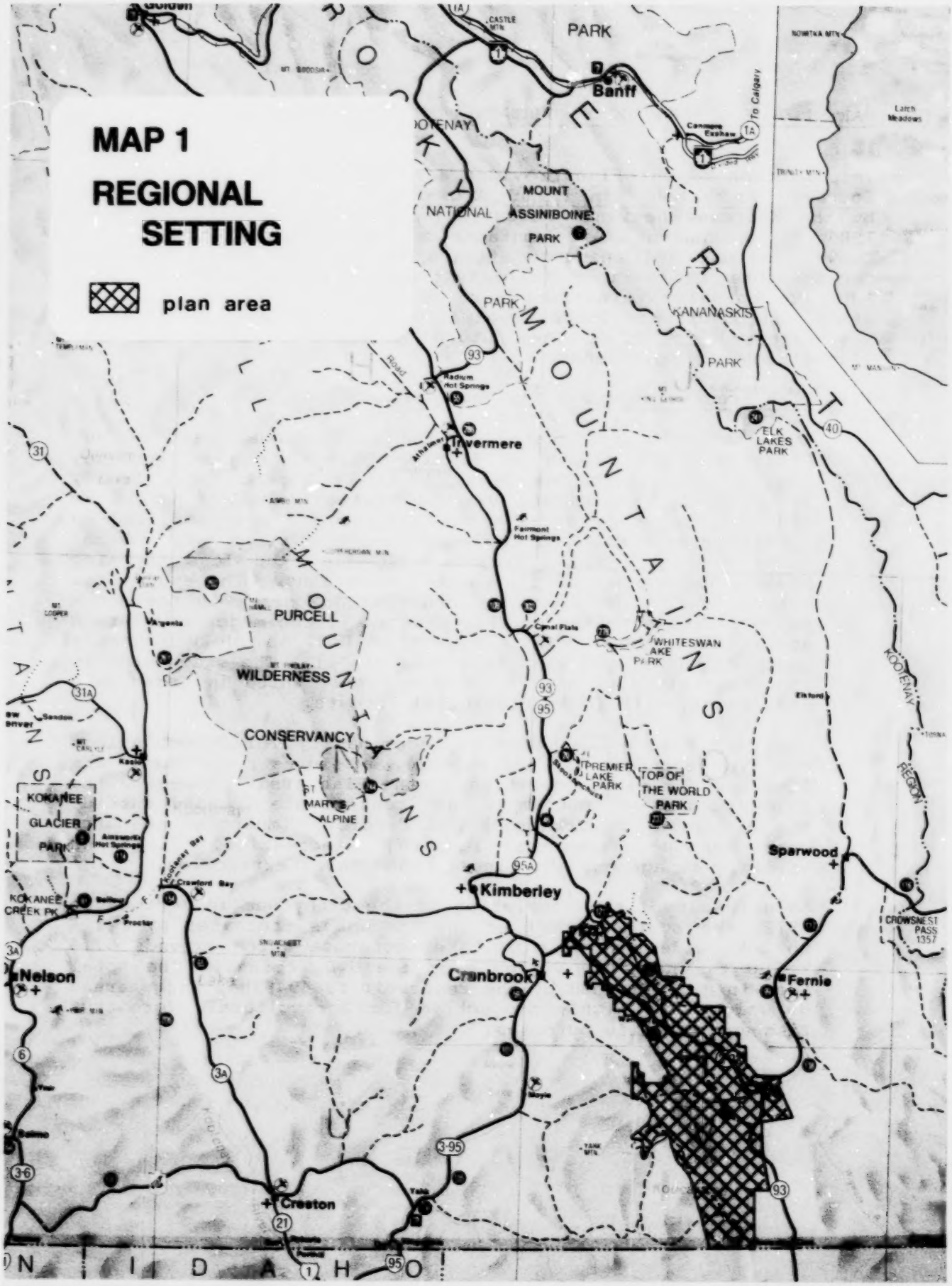
This section of the Plan provides a summary of the more detailed Southern Rocky Mountain Trench Crown Land Concept Plan, endorsed by the Kootenay Regional Resource Management Committee in July, 1983. The Concept Plan contains a comprehensive inventory of Crown land use and resource attributes, as well as future land requirements for various settlement and resource-oriented uses. Four conceptual alternatives were provided for public, interest group and government agency evaluation. A preferred alternative was selected to guide the future management, allocation and disposition of Crown lands.

1.1 Plan Area Description

The Plan Area is located in the southernmost part of the Rocky Mountain Trench in British Columbia's East Kootenay Region (Map 1). The Rocky Mountain Trench is a broad, structurally controlled, U-shaped valley (about 6 to 16 km wide in the study area) whose surface has been modified by glacial processes. To the east lies the steep wall of the Rocky Mountains while to the west lies the less imposing McGillivray Ranges of the Purcell Mountains. The study area extends for 76 km from the border with Montana in the south to Fort Steele in the north. Cranbrook, the major population and service centre for this part of B.C. is 20 km from the northern end of the Plan Area (see Map 1). The study area is approximately 1500 sq. km in size 80% of which is Crown land and 75% of which is in Provincial Forests.

The Plan Area encompasses a predominantly rural population, heavily dependent on agriculture and forestry. There are five small rural communities in the Plan Area. However, the major population and employment centres are located outside the Plan Area in Cranbrook and Fernie. Important resource uses include forestry, ranching, recreation, fish and wildlife management and mineral and gravel extraction.

As a result of the completion of the Libby Dam in Montana in 1972, the southern part of the Trench is dominated by the 1 to 2 km wide reservoir of Lake Koocanusa which extends 67.4 km up the Kootenay Valley from the U.S. border. The total area in B.C. flooded by the reservoir is 4946 ha, large areas of which were highly productive for agricultural, forestry, fish and wildlife purposes.


MAP 1
REGIONAL
SETTING
plan area
PARK
Banff
MOUNT
ASSINIBOINE
PARK
KANANASKIS
PARK
ELK
LAKES
PARK
Invermere
PURCELL
WILDERNESS
CONSERVANCY
WHITESWAN
LAKE
PARK
PREMIER
LAKE
PARK
TOP OF
THE WORLD
PARK
KOKANEE
GLACIER
PARK
KOKANEE
CREEK PK
Kimberley
Sparwood
CROWSNEST
PASS
1357
Nelson
Cranbrook
Fernie
Creston
ROCKY MOUNTAINS
COLUMBIA MOUNTAINS
KOOTENAY
REGION
IDAHO

1.2 Background and Issues

The Plan Area is endowed with high natural resource values and land capabilities which have fostered a variety of uses. Some of these uses are compatible, some conflict with each other, while others require careful integration. The need for a Plan has arisen out of this situation along with several other inter-related issues.

The basic cause of many recent problems has been the loss of land due to the Libby Reservoir flooding in 1972 which severely disrupted the ecology and productive capability of the Southern Trench. This in turn, required the displacement of existing uses to other areas already being utilized thus intensifying competition for use of the land. The loss of valuable farm land, forests and fish and wildlife habitat made the remaining valuable areas that much more important. Superimposed on this situatation was a growing population in the surrounding region which places additional demands on the finite land base for rural, residential, recreational and agricultural purposes.

The preparation of this Crown Land Plan was based on the need to address and resolve a variety of issues and conflicts in a comprehensive manner. The major issues included:

i) The need to protect and manage forest and range resources.

ii) The need to protect and manage valuable wildlife and fisheries resources.

iii) The need to provide Crown land for the present and future development and expansion of agriculture.

iv) The need to accommodate demands for settlement growth and rural residential development and to designate suitable areas for such developments.

v) The need to designate lands for outdoor recreation purposes and to protect areas for future recreational use.

vi) The need to determine the appropriate balance between these competing uses in the context of furthering the practice of integrated resource management.

1.2.1 External Issues

There are several issues that are outside the direct control of the various government agencies and thus greatly complicate the planning and management of solutions. These issues are:

i) The drawdown caused by the Libby Dam in Montana.

ii) Present and future transportation and utility corridors such as the Alberta Natural Gas Pipeline looping project and the B.C. Hydro 500KV line.

iii) Coal development in the Elk Valley and its impacts on settlement, recreation and wildlife.

iv) The proposed Kootenay Diversion.

v) People eager to acquire land for rural settlement and the subsequent impacts of such development on recreation, agriculture and wildlife.

vi) The popularity of the area for outdoor recreation and the relative ease of access within the area.

1.2.2 Libby Dam Issue

The Libby Pondage Reserve was originally established around the reservoir in 1972 to allow resettlement of people displaced by the flooding. Within the reserve, Crown land could not be disposed of except to those who were completely or partially displaced. This offer was not administered aggressively in the past with the result that the necessary land was not allocated and offers made to the displacees until 1982. The resolution of the problem, in terms of the Crown land made available for compensation, affected the land allocation process of this Plan.

1.3 Plan Goal and Objectives

The goal of the project was to prepare a Crown Land Plan that would determine the optimum land use and resource management designations for the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench and to establish appropriate guidelines and policies for the planning, management or development of designated areas allocated to various uses.

In order to fulfill the goal of the plan as defined above, the following land allocation and resource use objectives were defined:

(1) To protect and manage high capability biophysical resources;

(2) To facilitate integrated land and resource use programs of affected government agencies;

(3) To provide areas in designated nodes for present and future settlement needs;

(4) To give due consideration to maintaining the distinctive land use and biotic character of the area;

(5) To provide some opportunities for agricultural expansion and to maintain future agricultural development options;

(6) To protect high capability water-based recreation areas from incompatible uses and for on-going and future management;

(7) To maintain future land use options by means of managing lands not designated for special purposes on an integrated resource management basis.

(8) To support the resolution of the Libby displacee issue so that the Pondage Reserve may be lifted and applications for Crown land can be processed within the context of this Plan.

1.4 Planning Process

The Plan has been prepared according to guidelines established for sub-district plans in the Ministry's Planning Handbook. The planning process stresses inter-agency decision-making and consensus. It also emphasizes a public participation program to assist the inter-agency Task Force at critical steps in plan formulation. Endorsement of the Plan by the Regional Resource Management Committee, and review by affected local governments underlines the importance of regional agency commitment to the Plan. Endorsement and adoption of the Plan at higher levels of government follows regional commitment.

1.5 Plan Area Characteristics

1.5.1 Natural Environment

In this area, the Trench contains moderately flat to rolling and relatively steep topography ranging from 760 to over 950m (2500 to over 3000 feet) elevation. The topography has been strongly modified by glacial action and by more recent fluvial activity. To the east, the Rocky Mountains rise abruptly from the valley floor while to the west, rolling hills merge with the rounded mountains of the Purcells. Drainage is provided by the southward flowing Kootenay River, the lower reaches of its major tributaries the Elk and Bull Rivers, and several smaller tributary streams.

The climate is characterized by long cold winters, and very warm dry summers with light precipitation in all seasons. The growing season is approximately 180 days and the frost free period is about 110 days. The Plan Area is largely within the Interior Douglas-fir bio-geoclimate zone with the extreme southern portion in the Ponderosa Pine-Bunchgrass zone and small upland sections in the Montane Spruce zone. Vegetation varies from grasslands and open parklands (historically fire induced and maintained) with Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine at lower elevations, merging with more closed forests of Douglas-fir/lodgepole pine at higher elevations.

1.5.2 Natural Resources

The Plan Area contains important range and timber resources. There are large areas at lower elevations of the Trench that are managed primarily for forage production and many areas at middle and higher elevations that are managed for a mixture of timber and forage on a continuous basis. Range capability is high throughout most of the Plan Area. Forest site capability is variable, however, with 11.2% rated as good, 47.8% as medium, and 40.8% as low.

The high capability agricultural lands (C.L.I. Classes 1-4) are extensive in the Plan Area notably from Fort Steele to Wardner and the Bull River, the Jaffray area and southwest to Elko, Baynes Lake and Grasmere. These are mainly dark brown and brown wooded silt loam soils. The area has a summer-dry climate, thus irrigation is essential for maximum crop production.

Much of the high capability valley bottom soils used for intensive cultivation were lost due to the formation of the Libby reservoir. However, some high capability agricultural lands exist above the flood level and have potential for increased agricultural production.

In terms of its capability to support large populations and a great diversity of wildlife, particularly big game, the Rocky Mountain Trench is important in North America and ranks highly on a global scale. No area in B.C. supports greater densities of wintering whitetailed deer, elk or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep. There are also significant mule deer populations. The Plan Area has suffered major losses in ungulate habitat due to the flooding of the Libby reservoir and its associated secondary impacts due to relocation of farms, highways and the railroad. The reservoir and its fluctuations has negatively affected sport fish populations as well. Thus the remaining high capability wildlife and fisheries habitat will require continuing protection and management.

The Plan Area is well endowed with outdoor recreational resources such as small lakes, rivers and streams, scenic and interesting landscapes, sport fish populations and outstanding wildlife resources. Significant recreational benefits are yet to be realized from the Koocanusa Reservoir due to large annual fluctuations (53m). Two Provincial Parks, 18 Forest Service recreation sites and a large number of informal sites are heavily used by nearby residents of Cranbrook/Kimberley and the Elk Valley as well as visitors from S.W. Alberta. A number of heritage sites are known but these are generally thought to be of local or regional archaeological significance.

The Southern Rocky Mountain Trench has been subjected to a considerable amount of mineral exploration since the turn of the century. Several small mineral deposits have been discovered and a few have been mined for brief periods. All the areas of known and potential metallic mineral deposits border the eastern edge of the study area as do the mineral claims. Of the known mineral deposits, only the Bull River copper deposit, which was mined between 1971 and 1974, is likely to become viable in the near future. The placer staking area in the Fort Steele area will receive continuing attention. Aggregate deposits, although scattered, are significant and will continue to supply small scale local needs.

1.6 Settlement Character

Since the early days of settlement in the area, first stimulated by the 1864 gold rush at Wild Horse Creek, the local economy has depended almost entirely on the primary industries of agriculture, lumbering and periodic mining activity. Farming has long been a major livelihood of people in the area. Many of todays farms and ranches have been in existence since pioneer times and in some cases are operated by descendants of the original settlers. Now, the forest industry is the largest employer with major sawmills at Elko and Galloway and several smaller operations located in the area. Commercial retail operations, tourism and other service sector employers also provide some economic diversification. There are five small rural communities located in the Plan Area and two slightly larger rural centres with a somewhat broader economic base. Wardner, Bull River, Galloway, Grasmere and Baynes Lake have populations varying from 25 in Grasmere to 185 in Baynes Lake (1981 statistics) with minimal community services available. These rural settlements are based on economic activities such as forestry operations (Galloway, Wardner, Baynes Lake), farming (all five communities), recreation/tourism (Baynes Lake, Jaffray). Bull River and Wardner also serve a dormitory function for people working in Cranbrook and Baynes Lake serves as a retirement community as well.

Elko has the Crowsnest Sawmill nearby and has an elementary school and some commercial and highway services. Major expansion of the community is limited by negative physical factors, although there is some potential for growth. Jaffray is a rural community with its basic economic activities in the forestry, farming and recreation/tourism sectors. The general area includes Tie and Rosen Lakes which have many residences and seasonal homes. Jaffray has an elementary school, a junior and senior high school, a post office and commercial services. It is in a strategic location and has a diversified economic base with a reasonably good community infrastructure for a rural community of this size. It has the potential to become a larger community performing a rural service centre function. However further strengthening of its infrastructure will be necessary to realize this opportunity.

1.6.1 Growth Trends

Population growth for the electoral area encompassing the Plan Area has averaged about 2% per annum for the years 1971-81 with most growth the result of inmigration pressures from neighbouring areas. Considerable numbers of people live in the rural communities and

commute to work in Cranbrook or the Elk Valley which have been growing at rates of 2.5% and 3.4% per year respectively between 1976-81. Future settlement growth will largely be dependent on the economic fortunes of these nearby areas and to a lesser degree on the number of retirees wishing to settle in the area.

1.7 Future Requirements For Crown Land

Crown land in the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench will continue to be required in the future for a number of resource management and settlement uses. The high bio-physical resource capabilities in the area and the dependence of the local economy on resource-oriented uses has resulted in a high degree of commitment of the resource base for the production of timber, forage, water, wildlife, fisheries and recreation opportunities. Crown land requirements have been assessed with regard to these commitments and anticipated growth trends, economic conditions, Crown land/private land availability, and government agency mandates and programs.

1.7.1 Agricultural Land Requirements

Since early times, the predominant agricultural activity of the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench has been cattle grazing. The traditional ranching-oriented lifestyle is still a prominent and essential part of the social and cultural fabric of the area.

There are approximately 7,000 to 8,000 head of beef cattle wintered in the Plan Area on about 90 farms. Total investment in agriculture on these holdings is approximately $30 million. Herd sizes range from 20 to 250 head. The gross value of cattle sales from the area approaches $2.5 million annually. Expansion of the beef industry in the past has been slow. This is due, in part, to the limited availability of Crown range. The majority of the land base held in private tenure (14,000 ha) is used for agricultural purposes.

A relatively recent and major addition to the agricultural economy of the Plan Area has been the City of Cranbrook Spray Irrigation Project. The project occupies 1,335 ha of Crown land which has largely been cleared and is being irrigated using the effluent from Cranbrook's sewage lagoons to produce hay, alfalfa and grain.

Future agricultural activity will be strongly influenced by market conditions in the beef cattle industry. While increases in production are necessary to maintain farm income at viable levels, the availability of suitable land to sustain needed increases is limited due to competition from other uses.

In the past, the level of demand for Crown land for agricultural purposes has been somewhat difficult to determine because of factors such as high financing costs, uncertainty about the Libby displacee issue and the previous moratorium on applications in the Pondage Reserve. The actual demand may, however, be quite significant. There are a number of ranchers who require Crown land to increase production either through lease or purchase (and subsequent intensive farming) or by more intensive management of native Crown range and improved pastures.

The amount of Crown land that will be required to satisfy the needs for increased agricultural production could not be determined with certainty. Due to logistical constraints and lack of response by ranchers, it was not possible for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food representatives to assess the location or the amount of Crown land that would be required to meet the needs for expansion of agricultural operations. All that could be determined was that some Crown lands must continue to be made available to meet the future needs of the agricultural community.

1.7.2 Grazing Land Requirements

20,450 A.U.M.'s of domestic livestock use is utilized on approximately 104,052 ha of range land in the Plan Area. 69 permittees on 18 range units use this forage annually from May to October. November to April forage is supplied on the rancher's deeded or leased private land.

Elk, mule deer, whitetail deer and a lesser number of bighorn sheep also utilize a significant amount of forage in the Plan Area. Areas used by wildlife for winter and spring range are used by domestic livestock in spring and fall. Grazing competition is managed by rotating pastures and by allocating certain percentages of the forage on Crown range for wildlife and livestock purposes as arranged through Coordinated Resource Management Plans and Range Unit Plans.

Crown range makes up almost half of the rancher's annual forage supply. Thus Crown range availability is a major factor in most operations. This importance is emphasized by the fact that Crown range is a relatively inexpensive forage supply compared to the alternatives.

The amount of Crown land required for grazing purposes was not determined by the Ministry of Forests' Range Division, although it can easily be said that whatever area of Crown range is provided will be fully utilized. In some range units, the Range Division is not able to meet the commitments. The major obstacle to increasing forage production on Crown lands is the process of forest succession which is widespread in the Plan Area. The Forest Service has an on-going program of range improvement which involves thinning, burning and re-seeding. It can be assumed that under present conditions, the range resource will not be able to accommodate a significant increase in demand in the short term. Future increases in Crown range A.U.M.'s can be expected on a gradual basis depending on funding for the range improvement program.

1.7.3 Forest Land Requirements

The forest industry provides one of the basic economic activities of the Plan Area. This industry, dominated by supplying the needs of sawmills at Elko, Galloway and Cranbrook and the pulp mill at Skookumchuck, is dependent upon the provision of an adequate and continuing supply of timber in order to meet market demands.

The Southern Rocky Mountain Trench has a forest land base of approximately 67,000 ha consisting of 36% Douglas-fir, 28% western larch, 23% lodgepole pine, 10% ponderosa pine and 3% white or Engelmann spruce by area with a short term volume of 7,584,500 cubic metres.

Direct employment derived from timber harvesting within the Cranbrook Timber Supply Area (T.S.A.) provided 1,182 jobs in 1980. It is estimated that an additional 3,546 persons (using a 3:1 multiplier) are employed indirectly resulting in a total of 4,728 jobs (1980 Timber Administration Report for the Nelson Region). The forest industry estimates that each 130 ha of average productive forest land provides a job for one British Columbian. This would indicate that the Plan Area could provide forestry related employment for 500 people.

The forest industry is recognized as a primary generator of economic activity in B.C. and in the Kootenay Region. The viability of the forest industry is tied directly to the protection of the forest land base. The Cranbrook Timber Supply Area (T.S.A.) analysis indicates that a shortfall (or reduction) will occur within 20 years. This shortfall is set at approximately twenty percent (20%) of the present commitment of the T.S.A. This means that the yearly commitment for the T.S.A. has been substantially reduced which highlights the importance of ensuring that the existing forest land base is protected from alienation and incompatible uses.

1.7.4 Fish and Wildlife Habitat Requirements

The land base for the outstanding ungulate resources of the Southern Trench has been reduced to such a degree that protection and management of the remaining high capability habitat, particularly winter range, is essential in order to maintain populations. The big game populations of the Southern Trench attract large numbers of resident and non-resident hunters as well as provide an attraction of considerable interest to other visitors. Without government commitment to their conservation, declines in the wildlife resources of the study area may eventually lead to restrictions on consumptive and non-consumptive wildlife use.

The land use plan should recognize the importance of maintaining the ecological integrity of the remaining land and water systems in those habitat areas required to perpetuate the wildlife resources of the Southern Trench. This will ensure the continued existence of these highly valued and exceptional wildlife populations.

Recreational fishing in the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench provides approximately 35,000 angler days per year. Eighty percent of the existing fishing effort in the Plan Area is thought to occur on small lakes. The majority of remaining effort occurs on the streams with negligible (less than 5%) effort occurring on the river/reservoir system. Over the next 10 years, fishing effort is expected to double.

The land use plan should ensure that fisheries habitat is protected if existing fisheries values and future enhancement options are to be maintained. Public access to these fisheries is required in order to

provide recreational angling opportunities for residents and visitors to the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench.

1.7.5 Mineral and Aggregate Requirements

The small area in the north of the Plan Area open to placer staking is deserving of special consideration as it is one of the few such areas in the province. The interest in gold mining remains high and it is likely to receive continuing attention and exploration. Considerable mineral claim staking has taken place recently in the central and northern parts of the study area. In view of the potential for economic mineral deposits, areas underlain by the Purcell Supergroup sedimentary rocks within the Plan Area (generally the eastern half) should remain accessible for exploration.

At present, the activities associated with mineral resource exploration are not expected to significantly influence existing renewable resource uses of the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench or the potential for further activities. The primary concern of the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources is to ensure that the possibilities for mineral exploration and development remain open and that various planning processes do not create any new areas reserved from mineral or placer staking without consultation on a site-by-site basis. In the future, if mineral deposits are to be exploited, it is realized that specific site development and environmental considerations would be required.

Aggregate deposits are found scattered in the Trench, largely the result of glacial and/or fluvial processes. The Ministry of Transportation and Highways is the major user of gravel resources for their road construction and maintenance programs. Numerous small pits, generally located in reasonable proximity to main transportation routes, exist throughout the study area.

It is estimated that there is enough gravel on reserve to meet anticipated needs for the next 5 to 7 years. Thus, more intensive searches for new sources will be required in the future. It is necesssary that some of the aggregate reserves on Crown land be maintained for future utilization although it is recognized that every effort must be made to minimize adverse impacts on the valued biotic resources of the Plan Area.

1.7.6 Water Management Requirements

The Southern Rocky Mountain Trench Plan Area as a whole has an abundant supply of water which could be available for any agricultural, municipal or industrial development that is presently envisaged. The sources from which this water is available are predominantly the main stem river system and larger tributaries. However, servicing of specific water deficient areas may not be economically feasible and may therefore constrain settlement and some agricultural activities.

In several parts of the Plan Area there are high levels of licensed demand on streams, especially for irrigation purposes. The maintenance of the water supplies from streams in this low rainfall area is critical to the existance of many agricultural operations. Resource management programs in licensed watersheds should respect existing water use patterns and activities and should not disrupt water supplies.

1.7.7 Public Recreation Land Requirements

The East Kootenay region is a very popular recreational and tourism destination area, renowned for its striking mountain scenery, hot dry summer climate and high capability for a wide range of recreational activities. The Southern Rocky Mountain Trench shares in this reputation of being a prime outdoor recreation area, especially during the warm-weather season.

Most recreational users originate from within the region along with large numbers of tourists from Alberta and other parts of B.C. It is known that the nearby residents of the Elk Valley and Cranbrook/Kimberley have a high level of participation in outdoor recreation. The Southern Rocky Mountain Trench is visited most often for camping and fishing by residents of both these neighbouring areas and for beach activities by Coal Block residents and for wildlife viewing by Cranbrook/Kimberley residents. Increased visitation can be expected as the area provides a choice recreational hinterland for the populations of nearby B.C. and southern Alberta communities.

Recreational use is focused on the small lakes that have formal recreation areas. These include Norbury Lake Provincial Park, Tie Lake Regional Park and

Ministry of Forests Recreation Sites on Horseshoe Lake, Northstar Lake, Loon Lake, etc. and adjacent to several creeks. Considerable recreational use (estimated at 50-60,000 user days) occurs on an informal and unmanaged basis as well, due to the ease of access provided by the maze of secondary roads. This creates problems of management and control for other resource users.

The projected population growth in the surrounding region, as well as continued urban and rural settlement indicates that additional Crown land will be required for conservation and public recreational uses in the next 20 years. It is therefore, considered necessary to designate Crown land for future public recreation and conservation purposes. The focus of these land requirements will contine to be on lakeshore lands (both small lakes and the Libby Reservoir), high quality stream corridors and critical natural and scenic sites. For those sites which do not require designation because of size, quality or location, provision must be made for protection by assignment to a compatible designation or by plan policies.

1.7.8 Rural Residential Land Requirements

Rural residential land use and the associated lifestyle is very popular and appealling in the Plan Area. Although no precise statistics are available, the local population has grown slowly (2% per year) during the past several years with most growth accommodated at Elko, Jaffray and Baynes Lake. Most requests for Crown land are for rural residential purposes (about 30 per year) accounting for over 75% of all inquiries during the three years 1981-83. Most interest is directed at Elko (45%), Baynes Lake (25%) and Jaffray (20%).

The amount of Crown land required for rural residential and settlement purposes could not be accurately determined as most demand originates from outside the Plan Area. The supply aspects in the Coal Block communities and Cranbrook will also influence the amount of private land and Crown land that could be made available in the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench. Even with the projected modest population growth in nearby Cranbrook and Coal Block communities, it is very likely that some demands will materialize. It is best for all resource management agencies that demand be directed to specific areas that can be readily

serviced and where it can be accommodated in a manner that causes the least degree of disruption to the land and resource base. A planned approach to disposition should be taken, focussing on specified centres.

The communities named in the R.D.E.K. draft Regional Plan as "Rural Service Centres" (Elko, Jaffray) along with one "Rural Settlement Area" (Baynes Lake) should be considered for designation as growth centres where planned disposition could occur for the first 5-10 year period of this plan. Wardner, Bull River, Galloway and Grasmere can be considered for settlement growth in the 10-20 year horizon should the supply be exhausted in the first three growth centres and if warranted by demand. The size of lots in these growth nodes should vary between 0.2 ha and 0.8 ha (or larger if necessitated by site servicing requirements). This would ensure that the supply of residential land would not be exhausted too rapidly and would keep servicing costs at acceptable levels.

1.7.9 Industrial and Commercial Land Requirements

The amount of land currently devoted to these uses (two sawmills and highway commercial businesses) is small and under private ownership. They are found along Highway #3 and near the existing settlements. It is expected that very little industrial development, other than possible expansion of existing operations, will occur in the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench. This type of development can be accommodated relatively easily if adjacent vacant Crown lands are available.

Because of the high renewable resource values in the Plan Area, it is felt that most new types of industrial developments should be directed to the considerable private industrial land that is available in Cranbrook and the Elk Valley communities. The exception to this would be industrial operations (such as mining) which are dependent on the proximity of a specific resource. As these are nearly impossible to predict, any such industrial applications will have to be dealt with on their individual merits within the context of this plan.

Commercial development proposals, which are not expected to be numerous, will also be dealt with on an individual basis within the context of this Plan, as the identification of suitable sites was not undertaken. A detailed assessment of industrial and commercial land needs can more appropriately be carried out as part of the settlement planning process to be undertaken by the Regional District. It is therefore, considered unnecessary to designate specific additional Crown land for industrial or commercial purposes in the Plan Area.

1.7.10 Other Crown Land Requirements

Crown land suitability for recreational cottaging was also examined. The Southern Trench can be considered lake deficient (the large reservoir fluctuations greatly reduce the appeal of this large body of water) and judging from the response of recent draws for vacant lease lots, the demand for cottage lots is significant. However, the supply of Crown shoreland on lakes suited to development is somewhat limited and the small lakes of the Plan Area are important for fisheries management and public recreation purposes. Also, because cottaging has serious impacts for other resource management programs, cottage lot development was not a priority land use considered by this Plan.

Institutional uses were also considered. These include medical, educational, correctional and other institutions serving a broad public interest and can also include facilities serving a specific community. Large rural-oriented institutional proposals are difficult to predict as there are a number of uncertainties about assessing federal, provincial and community needs. Therefore any Crown land needs for institutional uses will be addressed through policy provisions rather than by land designation.

1.8 Alternative Plan Concepts

A number of conceptual options can be derived for the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench Plan Area. They range along the continuum from complete resource protection and severe limitation to changes in land use and settlement growth at one end, to rapid resource exploitation and ready accommodation of settlement and recreation development demands at the other end. The acceptable range between the two extremes is drastically narrowed when the resource capability analysis, the various resource requirements and the plan goal and objectives are considered. Within this context, three acceptable conceptual plan alternatives became apparent:

- alternative 1 would lean towards environmental protection, resource conservation/growth limitation principles;

- alternative 2 would emphasize greatly increased resource development and settlement expansion policies and;

- alternative 3 would focus on balancing resource utilization, protection and integrated management while permitting selective settlement growth.

The basic features of the three concepts are outlined below.

1.8.1 Concept 1 - Resource Protection Emphasis

This concept is based on the assumption that environmental protection - primarily the maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat, range, forestry and recreation values - is of primary importance.

- Maximize the amount of Crown land to be administered on an integrated resource management basis for fish, wildlife, watershed and other resource values in association with Timber and Range programs of Ministry of Forests.

- C.R.M.P. to be dominant land and resource management instrument.

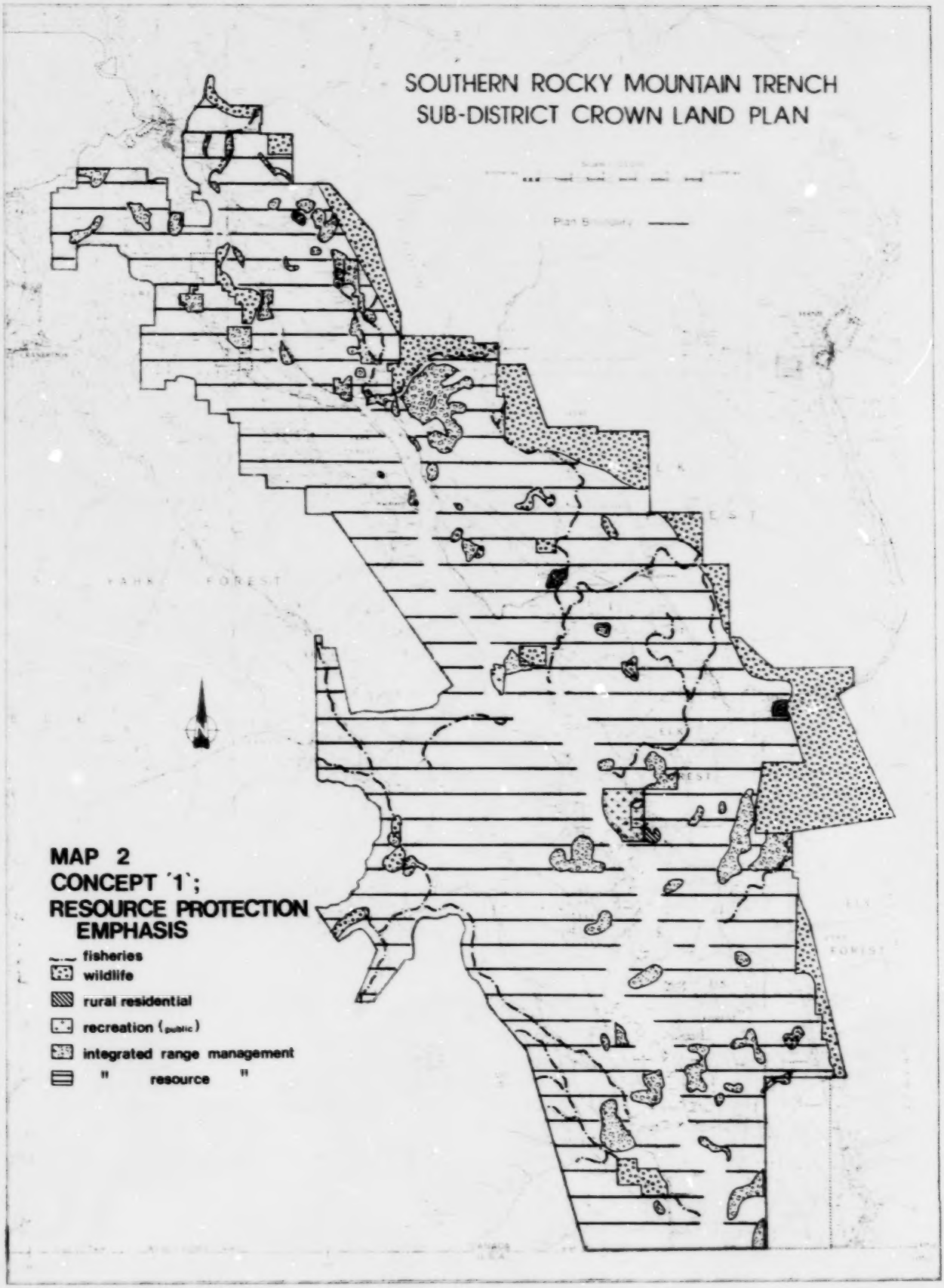
- Crown land with high wildlife and fisheries values to be given reserve status; key private lands to be purchased for wildlife management purposes.

- Settlement expansion to be directed to private lands around existing nodes. Limited alienation of Crown land for settlement purposes to be permitted only after integrated resource management requirements are satisfied.

- Limited expansion of grazing or agriculture permitted unless fish and wildlife habitat losses can be minimized.

- Timber harvesting and management to be carried out in concert with wildlife habitat management objectives.

- Recreation development to be carried out largely by the public sector and is to be compatible with fish, wildlife and forest management objectives.


SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH
SUB-DISTRICT CROWN LAND PLAN
MAP 2
CONCEPT '1';
RESOURCE PROTECTION
EMPHASIS
fisheries
wildlife
rural residential
recreation (public)
integrated range management
" resource "

- Placer mining and mineral development restricted to existing claims. Strict controls to be imposed on aggregate removal.

1.8.2 Concept 2 - Economic Development Emphasis

This concept seeks to maximize development of Crown lands and the immediate economic benefits derived from development of the resource and land base.

- Areas with capability for development would be allocated to specific uses (agricultural, settlement, recreational) in response to market demands and to changes in the local/regional economy.

- In areas with coincident high resource capabilities e.g. agriculture/wildlife/recreation, the resource use with the highest rate of economic return for the short to medium term would take precedence. In other cases the highest capability for resource and economic development would take precedence over lesser capabilities.

- Crown land would be transferred from the Provincial Forests to Lands, Parks and Housing administration to be managed and disposed of under the Land Act for agricultural, commercial and industrial purposes in response to demand.

- Crown land around existing settlement and service nodes would be made available for disposition by Lands, Parks and Housing in response to demand.

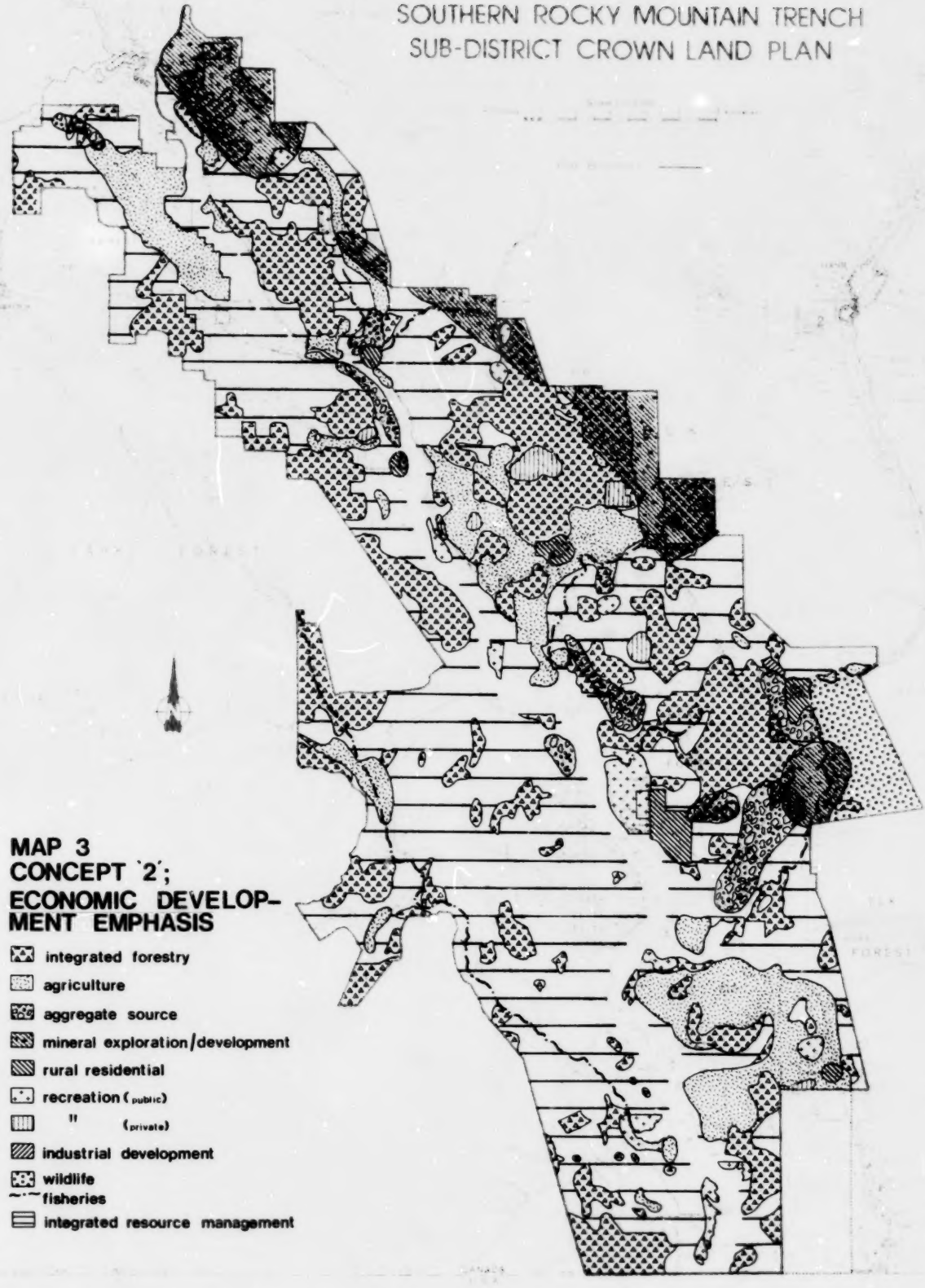
- Several lakes would be slated for cottage lot development.

- Tourism would be actively encouraged by the development of public facilities and the provision of Crown land for suitable tourist-commercial operations.

1.8.3 Concept 3 - Balanced Resource Management/Development

This approach supports the primacy of integrated resource management and maintains existing land use patterns while accommodating the long term need for controlled expansion of human settlement and resource development.

SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH
SUB-DISTRICT CROWN LAND PLAN



MAP 3
CONCEPT '2';
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EMPHASIS

- integrated forestry
- agriculture
- aggregate source
- mineral exploration/development
- rural residential
- recreation (public)
- " (private)
- industrial development
- wildlife
- fisheries
- integrated resource management

- Areas with high resource values would be managed by the particular agency responsible for that resource, recognizing the needs of other users. Thus Crown land would be allocated not only for integrated forestry use but also for conservation, fish and wildlife and recreation management.

- Crown land would be reserved under the Land Act for appropriate resource agencies.

- Land not designated for specific management purposes would be allocated for integrated management.

- Lands within the Provincial Forests are to be managed for timber, range, wildlife and recreation in a mutually compatible fashion.

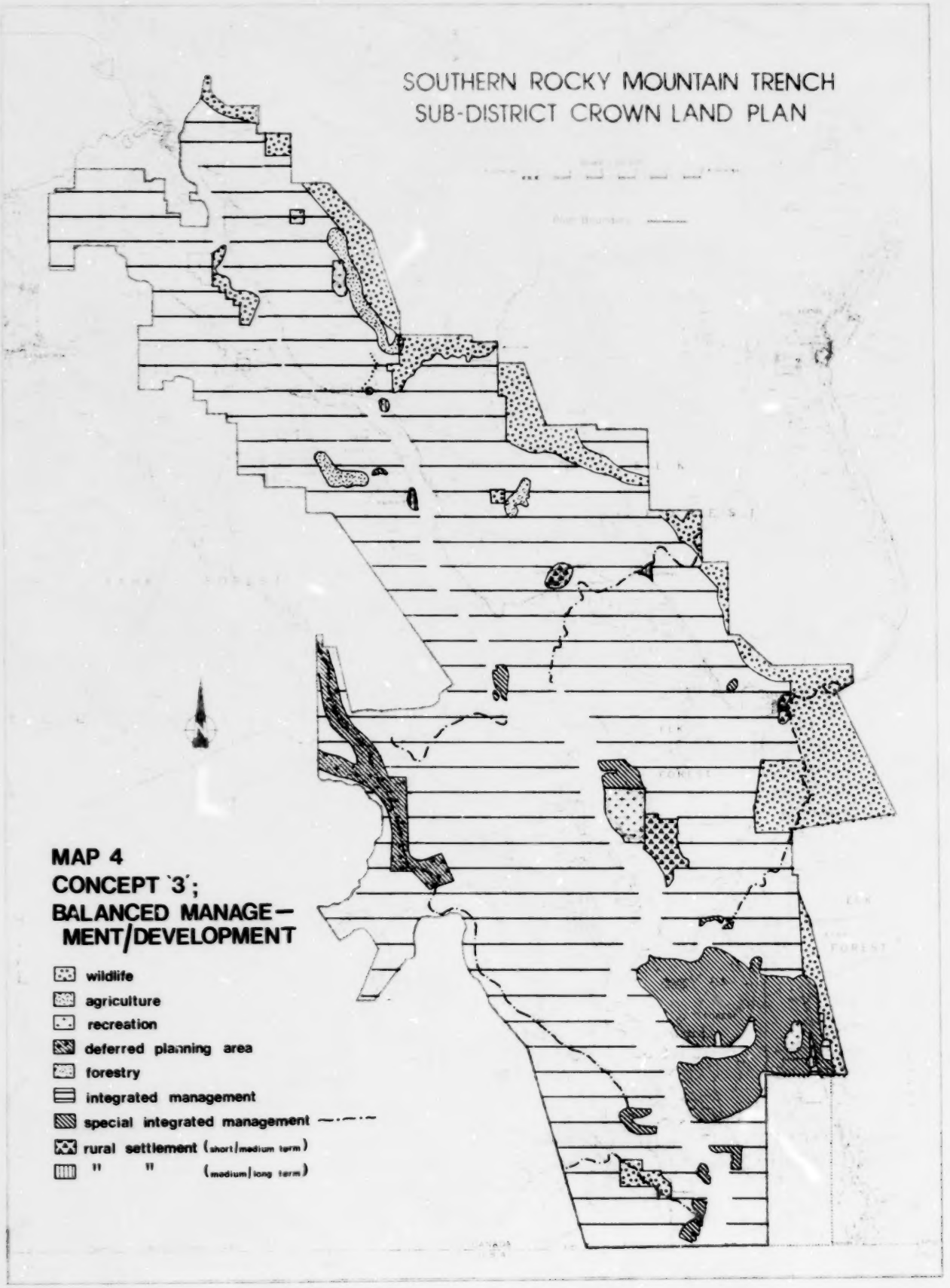
- Agricultural expansion would be limited to high capability lands with no resource conflicts and would be conditional upon more intensive use of existing agricultural land or expansion of existing farm holdings.

- Mineral and aggregate extraction will be controlled (by means of existing legislation) so as not to interfere with management of the biotic resources.

- Settlement growth would be accommodated at selected existing nodes initially utilizing available private lands. Crown land would be made available following preparation of settlement plans and consultation with other resource agencies.

- Recreation on the small lakes would largely be managed by the Forest Service; no additional Crown cottage lots would be provided.

- Proposed recreation reserves are to be managed on an integrated basis. Recreation demands are to be largely accommodated by Forest Service recreation sites with new park development to be limited to specific sites.


SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH
SUB-DISTRICT CROWN LAND PLAN
MAP 4
CONCEPT '3';
BALANCED MANAGE-
MENT/DEVELOPMENT
wildlife
agriculture
recreation
deferred planning area
forestry
integrated management
special integrated management
rural settlement (short/medium term)
" " (medium/long term)

1.9 Public Involvement Program

A program of public involvement was conducted to obtain feedback on the information, analysis and the three alternative plan concepts. A series of three public meetings were held between March 30 and April 15, 1982 with briefs received until May 15, 1982. Two of the meetings were Open Houses held in the Plan Area and one was a meeting for interest groups held in Cranbrook.

There was moderate attendance at the Open Houses (approximate total of 90) while the interest group meeting was well attended with over 40 people representing 10 groups. Most attention was focussed on Concept 3 with minor interest shown in the other two concepts. The attendees could be divided into two distinct camps: the first was the forestry/recreation/wildlife/environmental supporters who were in favour of Concept 3 and the practice of integrated resource management that would provide a variety of benefits; the second was comprised of the ranchers of the Plan Area who were generally suspicious about the overall purpose and results of the Plan as it did not appear to provide for any of their perceived needs.

The first type wished to maintain peaceful co-existence of all user groups and believed that, "if carefully managed, there is room for all".

The major dissenting voice came from the ranching community as expressed by several individuals and organized groups such as the Kootenay Livestock Association. Their major complaint was that Concept 3 provided virtually nothing new for the agricultural sector. They demanded that more land should be allocated for agricultural expansion and/or for intensified forage production in order to maintain the viability of the ranchers. They were also strongly opposed to the establishment of a system of wildlife reserves along the lower slopes of the Rocky Mountains. They feared (despite arguments to the contrary by the Fish and Wildlife Branch) that this would lead to exclusive use of these areas for wildlife purposes and that habitat management would only cause increased problems with wildlife on ranches adjacent to the reserves.

It should also be noted that there were some groups and individuals who were opposed to any further Crown land disposition for agricultural purposes. They felt it would be harmful for forest and wildlife management and would decrease the land base for multiple use purposes which supplies the broadest benefits for all users. They argued that continued expansion of agricultural holdings should not be supported on Crown lands but should be accommodated by amalgamation of existing ranches into more viable units.

TABLE 1

QUESTIONNAIRE ANALYSIS

Number of Responses = 53

1. PREFERRED CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVE

#3	-	36
#2	-	5
#1	-	9

2. RANKING OF FACTORS IN CHOOSING THE ALTERNATIVE

Environmental Concerns - highest priority - score of 88

Plan Objectives - second priority - score of 98

Socio-economic Concerns - third priority - score of 109

Others - Housing
- Aesthetics/future generations

3. PLACE OF WORK

In Study Area	27
Outside Study Area	21
No Answer	12

4. PLACE OF RESIDENCE

In Study Area	21
Outside Study Area	32

TABLE 2

INTEREST GROUP BRIEFS

PREFERRED CONCEPT

NAME OF GROUP	CONCEPT PREFERENCE			
	1	2	3	Not Stated
E.K. Hunters' Association	X			
E.K. Labour Council/S.P.E.C.			X	
Personal Brief - Len Lancaster				X
South Country Wilderness Association			X	
E.K. Wildlife Association			X	
Rocky Mountain Lodge Guide Outfitters	X			
Fernie Rod & Gun Club			X	
Personal Brief - Bill Oestreich				X
Kootenay Livestock Association				X
National Farmers Union				X
Southern B.C. Guide Outfitters			X	
R.D.E.K. Electoral Area "B" Director - Randy Reay				X
Odd Aasland - Taxidermy			X	
TOTAL	2	0	6	5

It was clear from the meetings and submissions that the people realized the Plan Area has high capability for a number of land uses and that with the existing high degree of commitment of the resource base, some mechanism was needed to avoid increasing conflicts. There was also broad support indicated in oral and written responses for Concept 3 - Balanced Management/Development. However, it was clear that some changes would be required to Concept 3 in order to accommodate some of the needs of the ranching community.

Several modifications to Concept 3, including a provision allowing ranchers to continue the existing Crown land agricultural application procedure, were developed into an additional concept after the Task Force reviewed the public input. However, the basic purpose of Concept 3 - to permit some expansion of existing development within a framework of integrated management - remained unchanged.

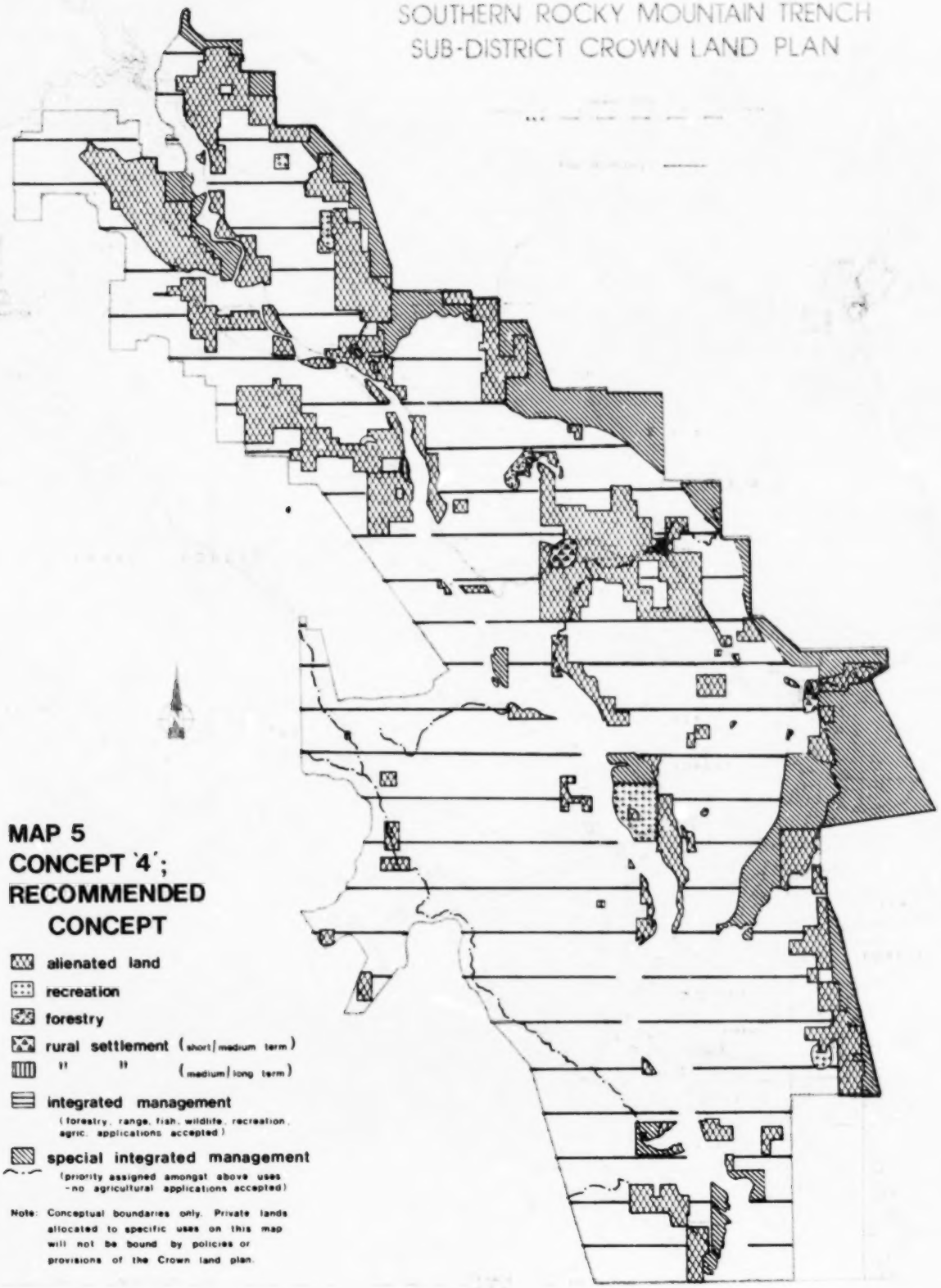
In order to give the public a further opportunity to examine the alternative concepts, especially Concept 4, another public meeting was held, this time at the Jaffray School, on November 24, 1982. The pre-meeting publicity and the interest generated by the previous public meetings were quite effective as about 100 people as well as representatives of five interest groups were present.

1.10 Selection of a Preferred Alternative

The results of the public involvement indicated that the concept emphasizing a framework of integrated resource management and permitting some balanced land development was favoured for Crown lands in the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench. The major modification requested was the addition of practical opportunities for agricultural expansion and development demanded by the ranching community. However, this had to be tempered with the broad support shown for protecting critical habitat and retaining the primacy of integrated resource management over the majority of the Plan Area.

The Task Force met to review agency positions and the public input in order to arrive at an agreement on a preferred alternative. It was generally accepted that Concept 4, with some further modification, enjoyed the broadest level of public support and also enabled each agency to meet its objectives in the Plan Area.

SOUTHERN ROCKY MOUNTAIN TRENCH SUB-DISTRICT CROWN LAND PLAN



MAP 5
CONCEPT '4'; RECOMMENDED CONCEPT

- alienated land
- recreation
- forestry
- rural settlement (short/medium term)
- " " (medium/long term)
- integrated management
  (forestry, range, fish, wildlife, recreation, agric. applications accepted)
- special integrated management
  (priority assigned amongst above uses - no agricultural applications accepted)

Note: Conceptual boundaries only. Private lands allocated to specific uses on this map will not be bound by policies or provisions of the Crown land plan.

The consensus reached by the Task Force recommended that Concept 4, Balanced Management/Development be endorsed by the Kootenay Regional Resource Management Committee and submitted to government for approval. With this concept, the land base for resource production is maintained, high quality natural areas are given suitable protection and areas for future settlement growth are designated. To accommodate the needs of the ranching community, opportunities for expansion of farm operations are provided by maintaining the Crown land agricultural application process within the Integrated Management Area. The change in the title of the Wildlife Reserve Area to Special Integrated Management Area gives due recognition to the wildlife resource and to the range of other uses permitted in these areas.

At their July 1983 meeting, the Kootenay Regional Resource Management Committee unanimously endorsed the preferred concept as presented. At the request of the other agencies, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food agreed to undertake an assessment of the future agricultural land requirements in the Plan Area prior to the first five year plan review.

The Concept Plan and the K.R.R.M.C. recommendation was forwarded for review by the Minister and Executive Committee of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing and was subsequently approved in October, 1983.

1.11 Derivation of the Crown Land Plan

The information, inventory and analysis provided in the Concept Plan has been utilized as the basis for a detailed Crown Land Plan for the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench. A detailed Plan Map has been developed from the broad conceptual allocation map (Map 5) of the Concept Plan, which designates Crown land for specific uses and activities using more precise boundaries. The land categories themselves have been slightly modified from those of the Concept Plan Map to consolidate areas with similar management orientations. A set of policy guidelines has also been prepared for each Crown land category to establish commitment, clarification and direction for government agencies. The policy guidelines are comprehensive statements of existing government policy and special management conditions pertinent to the Plan Area. The policy guidelines and Plan Map constitute Part 2.0 of this plan document.

PART 2.0

CROWN LAND DESIGNATIONS AND POLICY GUIDELINES

PART 2.0 CROWN LAND DESIGNATIONS AND POLICY GUIDELINES

2.1 Plan Interpretation

AGRICULTURAL LAND RESERVE (A.L.R.) means the Agricultural Land Reserve established pursuant to the Agricultural Land Commission Act to protect land currently used or with potential for future agricultural use, and to encourage uses compatible with agriculture.

APPLICANT means a person applying for a disposition of Crown land under the Land Act respecting Crown land.

CONCEPT PLAN means the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench Crown Land Concept Plan (1983) of the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing which provides technical background information, analysis and conceptual land use alternatives for the Plan Area.

CONSERVATION means the act of planning and managing lands, buildings or natural resources or environmental features to ensure that their full potential can be realized in the future when required by society.

CROWN means Her Majesty in right of the Province of British Columbia.

CROWN LAND PLAN means the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench Crown Land Plan (S.R.M.T. Crown Land Plan) which contains Crown land designations, policy guidelines and Plan Map and is adopted under authority of the Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing.

CROWN LAND DISPOSITION means the act of disposal by which an interest in Crown land is transferred from the Crown to an interested party, or by which the Crown divests itself of Crown land.

EXTENSIVE AGRICULTURE means that use of Crown land, generally over 15 ha in area, for soil bound cultivation, production and harvest of livestock, cereal and forage crops, vegetables or fruit.

FLOOD HAZARD AREA means a low land area or floodplain, whether flood-proofed or not, which by reason of land elevation is susceptible to periodic flooding from an adjoining stream, lake or other body of water.

INTENSIVE AGRICULTURE means the use of Crown land parcels of an area of 15 ha or less for the commercial production of animals, fruit and/or vegetables. Examples of intensive agriculture include poultry farms, market gardens, greenhouses, nurseries, piggeries and feed lots.

LAND CAPABILITY means the natural ability of land and resources to support a specified activity or use, based on the natural biological and physical (biophysical) characteristics of the land.

LAND SUITABILITY means the ability of the land to support a given activity based upon biophysical characteristics and the constraints and advantages of the land due to existing use, location, and a variety of social, economic and political (policy) factors.

LINEAR DEVELOPMENT means a right-of-way or easement for telephone lines, oil and gas transmission lines, power lines, sewage outfall lines and other public utilities.

MLPH means the B.C. Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing.

MOF means the B.C. Ministry of Forests.

PLAN AREA means the Southern Rocky Mountain Trench (SRMT) as described and mapped in the Crown Land Plan and Concept Plan. It excludes privately-owned land and encompasses the area of the Libby Pondage Reserve established in 1972 as part of a program to resettle people displaced by the reservoir flooding, as well as additional surrounding Crown lands affected by similar land use demands and resource conflicts.

PROVINCIAL FOREST means forest land, as established by Cabinet under Section 5 of the Forest Act, over Crown land that is best managed for timber and forage production, forest recreation, and for water, fisheries and wildlife purposes.

RECLAMATION means the manipulation, recontouring and revegetation of a land surface disturbed in the extraction of sand, gravel, and minerals or by other land uses in order to restore it to a desireable productive use.

RESERVED LAND means Crown land that has been withdrawn from disposition under the Land Act or some other Act.

RESPONSIBLE AGENCY means the government agency identified in the Crown Land Plan as responsible for the management, planning and jurisdiction of Crown lands assigned to a specific land allocation category.

2.2 GENERAL PROVISIONS

2.2.1 Relationship to Land Act

This Crown Land Plan shall assist the Minister of Lands, Parks and Housing and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council in carrying out the following responsibilities pursuant to the Land Act (R.S.B.C., CH. 214):

i) the administration of all Crown land in the S.R.M.T. Plan Area, except Crown land under the specific administration of another Minister, branch or agency of government (Land Act, S.4);

ii) the disposition of Crown land in the S.R.M.T. Plan Area by lease, licence to occupy or sale in the public interest (Land Act, S. 8);

iii) the reservation of Crown land from disposition by Order-in-Council Reserve for any purposes considered advisable in the public interest (Land Act, S. 11);

iv) the temporary withdrawal of Crown land from disposition by Map Reserve for any purpose considered advisable in the public interest (Land Act, S. 12); and

v) the designation of the most suitable use of Crown land and its withdrawal, in the public interest, from disposition for any purpose other than the designated use by Land Act designation (Land Act, S. 13); and

vi) the amendment, renewal or cancellation of reserves, designations, and withdrawals from disposition pursuant to the Land Act (S.11, 12 and 13).

2.2.2 Relationship to Other Statutes, Regulations and Procedures

(a) This Crown Land Plan shall assist the Minister of Forests, the Chief Forester and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council in carrying out their responsibilities pursuant to the Ministry of Forests Act (R.S.B.C., Ch. 272) and the Forest Act (R.S.B.C., Ch. 140).

(b) Compliance with the provisions of this Crown Land Plan in no way absolves Crown land applicants and tenure holders from compliance with local government Offical Plans and zoning regulations, relevant B.C. and Federal statutes, and terms and conditions of existing and future Crown land tenures.

(c) The provisions of this Crown Land Plan shall reinforce and supplement the land administration policy and procedures established by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing.

(d) The designations and provisions of this Plan in no way preclude the utilization of Crown land for exploration, extraction, (e.g. for non-renewable resources) reclamation or other uses and activities authorized pursuant to other statutes and regulations in British Columbia.

2.2.3 Crown Land Uses and Activities

(a) Crown land uses and activities shall be permitted and undertaken in accordance with the Crown land designations and policy guidelines contained herein (Sections 2.3 to 2.5) and the Plan Map, which is deemed part of the Crown Land Plan. The policy guidelines will reinforce and supplement, but not supercede the legislation and policies of other agencies.

(b) Applications for Crown land or resources for uses permitted and conditionally permitted by the Plan shall be processed and adjudicated by the agency responsible for management of the Crown land or resources, as identified for each individual land allocation category.

2.2.4 Plan Map Interpretation

The Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing shall interpret the specific location and extent of each land allocation category of the Plan Map when Crown land applications are made pursuant to the Plan Map in areas where boundaries do not coincide with district lot boundaries, other legally-defined boundaries, or man-made or physical boundaries.

2.2.5 Private Lands

Privately owned lands which may be shown on the Plan Map as allocated to a specific Crown land use are not governed by the provisions and policy guidelines of this Plan.

2.2.6 Existing Crown Land Reserves

(a) Order-in-Council Reserves established under Section 11, Land Act or any other Act are not altered or affected by the provisions of this Plan.

(b) Existing Section 12 Land Act Map Reserves shall be maintained unless otherwise stated in the plan.

(c) Section 12 Land Act reserves shall be re-evaluated relative to their merit and purpose at the first formal Plan review.

(d) Existing Section 12 Land Act reserves for sand and gravel purposes shall be assigned to specific land allocation categories of the Plan in accordance with the most suitable use of the reserved land. A systematic review of these reserves shall be undertaken by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing and Ministry of Transportation & Highways and reviewed by other concerned provincial agencies pursuant to this Plan. Cancelled reserves shall be subject to the provisions of the land category to which they have been assigned. Provision should be made for reclamation of disturbed lands to a condition capable of accommodating the permitted uses of the land category to which they have been assigned.

2.2.7 A.L.R. Crown Lands

(a) Applications for Crown land uses not permitted as outright uses in an Agricultural Land Reserve (A.L.R.) shall be reviewed in relation to A.L.C. regulations and the applicants advised to make the appropriate applications to the Regional District and/or the Land Commission.

(b) Soil removal or placement of fill material associated with sand and gravel operations on A.L.R. Crown lands shall require a permit from the Regional District pursuant to the Soil Conservation Act.

2.2.8 Flood Hazard on Crown Land

All use applications and development proposals for Crown lands located on flood hazard areas shall be referred to the Ministry of Environment for comment, pursuant to Section 82(1) and (2), Land Titles Act. Special terms and conditions may be imposed to govern the development of such lands, including restrictive covenant for tenures leading to clear title of land, to minimize property damage, injury and other flood-related hazards.

2.2.9 Linear Developments and Roadways

(a) Linear developments and roadways shall, wherever possible, be required to minimize land disturbance, adverse environmental impact, and the unnecessary fragmentation of Crown land.

(b) Major right-of-way proposals for Crown lands in the Plan Area are subject to MLPH land use policies (i.e. roadways and public and private utilities) and existing Provincial guidelines governing review and approval of linear developments and major energy projects, and shall be forwarded to the appropriate co-ordinating agency for review and assessment.

2.3 INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AREA (IMA)

2.3.1 Definition

Crown lands considered most suitable for timber, range, watershed, fish and wildlife production, forest-oriented recreation and with some areas suitable for agricultural use, that are to be managed in an integrated and co-ordinated fashion to optimize the long-term environmental, social and economic benefits for residents of the region and the province.

2.3.2 General Description

(a) Crown lands designated as Integrated Management Areas within the recommended concept as described in the S.R.M.T. Crown Land Concept Plan (1983).

(b) Crown land currently reserved under the Forest Act.

2.3.3 Purpose

(a) To secure suitable and sufficient lands for the integrated management of forest, range, fish, wildlife, and recreation resources.

(b) To encourage and facilitate the co-ordination of renewable and non-renewable resource management programs.

(c) To maintain the economic strength of the local and regional forest products industry by securing the land base to generate on a sustained yield basis, the projected timber requirements from the Plan Area.

(d) To minimize the environmental impacts of forest harvesting activities and practices on other land and resource uses.

(e) To maintain the economic strength of the local cattle ranching industry by continuing to provide Crown land grazing opportunities at existing or gradually increasing levels.

(f) To provide opportunities on suitable Crown land for the expansion of farm operations during the next 5 years. During this period, the Ministry of Agriculture & Food in consultation with other Task Force agencies and the farming community,

is to complete an assessment of land requirements and suitability for agricultural expansion purposes in the Plan Area. After the assessment is complete, the Plan will be amended and applications will be accepted only in those areas designated for agricultural purposes.

(g) To minimize the disruption of other resource uses and the environmental impacts of the clearing and development of Crown land for agricultural purposes.

2.3.4 Responsible Agency

(a) The MOF and MLPH retain responsibility for the administration of all IMA lands in Provincial Forest Reserves subject to:

i) The provisions for administration of non-forest uses within Provincial Forests, pursuant to the current Protocol Agreement between MOF and MLPH and the subsidiary agreements for such matters as Land Act Tenure Adminstration, Land Deletions from Provincial Forests, S.U.P. Conversions, Grazing Leases, etc.

ii) The provisions respecting administration of grazing leases and core lands, pursuant to the current Subsidiary Agreement between MLPH and MOF respecting these subjects.

(b) MLPH retains responsibility for administration of IMA Crown lands outside of Provincial Forests although Ministry of Forests has responsibility for integrated resource management on these lands.

(c) The Regional Operations Division, MLPH is responsible for administering agricultural development applications. In Provincial Forests, the procedures established pursuant to the Subsidiary Agreement on Land Deletions from Provincial Forests will apply. Decisions on applications will rest with the Regional Director, MLPH, and the Regional Manager, MOF, or if necessary, their respective Deputy Ministers. Outside Provincial Forests, the Regional Director, MLPH will make the decision.

2.3.5 Permitted Uses and Activities

(a) Timber production, extraction, utilization and management activities.

(b) Forage production and grazing use for livestock and wildlife.

(c) Wildlife management and habitat enhancement programs.

(d) Forest recreation uses and related management activities.

(e) Watershed and fisheries management and enhancement programs.

(f) Forest uses pursuant to the Forest Act.

2.3.6 Conditional Uses and Activities

(a) Non-forest uses may be permitted in IMA areas pursuant to the Forest Act, Section 5(6), and in conformance with the current Subsidiary Agreement on the administration of Land Act tenures within Provincial Forests.

(b) On suitable lands with minimal resource conflicts, expansion of agricultural uses may be permitted for the first five year period of the plan (and thereafter only in designated areas) according to terms and conditions outlined in the Subsidiary Agreement on land deletions from Provincial Forests; or if outside the Provincial Forest, according to MLPH policy on extensive agriculture.

(c) In Provincial Forests, leases for agricultural uses (excluding community pasture or range uses) leading to land-ownership of IMA lands or direct sale for agricultural uses, may be permitted under the following conditions:

i) MLPH establishes the eligibility of the applicant for agricultural use, i.e. an established farmer requiring arable land (as defined by MLPH policy) no greater than 65 ha in area for immediate expansion of an existing farm operation which lies adjacent to or nearby the subject IMA lands. The existing farm operation must be occupied by

the applicant and must be classified as farmland for taxation purposes by the B.C. Assessment Authority. For parcels greater than 65 ha, more detailed analysis is required;

ii) MOF and other concerned agencies assess the validity of the application with respect to their resource and economic criteria. If an agreement cannot be reached at the regional level, the matter will be resolved jointly by the Deputy Ministers of MLPH and MOF;

iii) the area for which a lease is issued is subsequently excluded from the Provincial Forest by an Order-in-Council initiated by the MOF.

(d) For IMA lands outside Provincial Forests, applications for agricultural disposition may be accepted from farmers subject to existing MLPH policies respecting arability, parcel size, tenure and adjudicated by the Regional Director, MLPH after inter-agency referrals;

(e) Industrial, tourist commercial, private recreation, sand and gravel extraction and processing, and other non-forestry uses may be permitted on suitable IMA lands with minimal resource conflicts subject to the following conditions:

i) any disposition is subject to the approval, terms and conditions of the MLPH;

ii) the proposed use is reviewed by the member agencies of the Planning Task Force through the MLPH referral process; and

iii) the proposed use conforms to the current Subsidiary Agreements respecting administration of non-forest uses in Provincial Forests, if the land is in a Provincial Forest.

2.3.7 Planning and Management Guidelines

(a) Resource planning and management activities within IMA lands shall be undertaken with the lead role assumed by the MOF. Inter-agency consultation is to be facilitated in order to achieve integrated management of resources.

(b) Planning for non-forest uses is the responsibility of MLPH. Provisions shall be made for inter-agency consultation in order to achieve integrated management of land and resources.

(c) All applications for non-forest uses in I.M.A. lands shall be made under provisions of the Land Act. These applications shall be referred to affected government agencies in accordance with current MLPH policy and Subsidiary Agreements.

(d) Leases and permits for sand and gravel operations shall be subject to MLPH Quarry Materials policy respecting royalties, plans, and Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources reclamation requirements. Reclamation of the land to a condition amenable to timber or forage production will be required as determined by MLPH on the recommendation of MOF.

(e) Timber harvesting on IMA lands shall be undertaken in accordance with a development plan approved by the MOF which addresses the reduction of potential environmental and aesthetic impacts pursuant to the Forest Act. Harvesting plans shall be referred to other relevant resource agencies and to agencies responsible for administration of adjacent Crown lands pursuant to this Plan.

(f) Forest recreation plans and programs should be developed in consultation with the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, MLPH, and the Regional District to promote an integrated and balanced recreational system in the Plan Area.

(g) Pursuant to the Ministry of Forests Act and the relevant Subsidiary Agreement between the MOF and MLPH, the MOF will develop, manage and maintain a system of forest recreation sites and trails, and recreation corridors within IMA lands.

(h) Timber and range utilization plans and programs for important fish and wildlife habitat areas and watersheds are to be developed in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment to ensure compatibility with the management goals and production targets of that agency.

(i) Lands used for livestock grazing shall be managed by the Ministry of Forests pursuant to the Forest Act and Range Act. The range improvement program shall be furthered on suitable lands. The co-ordination and integration of this program with timber harvesting, wildlife management and recreational uses are to be facilitated by Co-ordinated Resource Management Plans which involve government agencies and user groups.

(j) The MLPH shall undertake field inspections of agricultural application sites prior to their disposition to evaluate arability as defined in MLPH Extensive Agricultural policy. Fifty percent of the land in a parcel under application must be deemed arable and constitute at least 15 ha of the total area before disposition will be approved for agriculture. All agricultural land applications leading to fee simple tenure shall be subject to legal consolidation as required by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways Approving Officer

(k) Land tenure for grazing lease purposes and core land shall be administered according to the Subsidiary Agreement respecting the administration of grazing leases and the administration of Land Act tenures in Provincial Forests. No new grazing leases will be issued, although existing leases may be renewed, provided they are accompanied by a Grazing Management Plan. Applications for grazing licences and permits will be issued pursuant to the Range Act.

(l) The Regional Director, MLPH shall make applications through the Regional District to the Agricultural Land Commission for inclusion in the Agricultural Land Reserve boundary of any lands disposed of for agricultural development which are not within existing A.L.R. boundaries.

(m) Application for Crown land leases for sand and gravel extraction purposes in IMA lands should be directed towards existing pits and areas with known aggregate potential to minimize the areal impacts of such operations on natural resource production and to enhance efficient supervision of operations and reclamation activities. Such applications will be subject to the provisions of the MLPH Quarry Materials policy.

2.3.8 Implementation Process

In general, no special procedures are required as management objectives can be achieved under existing land administration policies and practices of MLPH and the relevant Protocol and Subsidiary Agreements with involved agencies. However a number of Land Act, Section 12 map reserves will be established for sites of particular management concern to Task Force agencies.

Decisions on Land Act applications will be circulated to the referral agencies.

2.4 SPECIAL INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT AREA (SIMA)

2.4.1 Definition

Crown lands identified by the planning team as requiring special designation to secure the highly valued capabilities or features of those areas.

2.4.2 General Description

Special Integrated Management Areas will have two or more of the following characteristics.

(a) Crown land critical or important for the production and maintenance of species numbers and diversity for Plan Area fish and wildlife populations.

Objectives -

i) To secure and protect important/critical wildlife habitats (high capability ungulate winter ranges, migration corridors, riparian areas and wetlands) in order to maintain and enhance the viability of the outstanding wildlife populations and in order to meet the demands for wildlife-based recreation.

ii) To maintain the viability of sport fish populations in order to meet the demands for recreational fishing by protecting stream habitat, riparian areas and water flow characteristics.

(b) Crown land considered important to the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division of MLPH or the MOF for future provincial parks, Forest Service recreation sites or managed opportunities and other public recreational facility development or use and which may be required to meet the future outdoor recreational needs of the region and province.

Objective - To secure high suitability Crown recreational lands to satisfy outdoor recreation objectives and to protect valuable recreation resources from competing or incompatible uses or activities.

(c) Crown land of importance to the MOF for forest management.

Objective - To facilitate the co-ordination of management programs for timber with management of high quality fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation resources.

(d) Crown land of importance to the MOF for range management.

Objective - To facilitate the co-ordination of management programs for range with management of high quality fish, wildlife and outdoor recreation resources.

(e) Crown land and water of importance to the Ministry of Environment, Water Management Branch for the provision of licensed water supplies for domestic and irrigation purposes.

Objective - To ensure that water management requirements for specific important licensed water sources are fully integrated with other resource management programs.

2.4.3 Purpose

(a) To secure the use of Crown land for the long term management of high quality wildlife and fisheries resources and water management needs to satisfy the recreational, environmental and economic needs of the region and province.

(b) To protect critical Crown wildlife habitat and prime recreational lands from conflicting or incompatible activities or competing land uses.

(c) To ensure the co-ordination of management programs for high quality fish, wildlife, recreation and watershed resources with timber and range management programs of the Ministry of Forests.

(d) To secure Crown recreational lands required by government agencies to satisfy outdoor recreation and conservation objectives.

(e) To provide suitable Crown land for expansion of the Plan Area park and outdoor/forest recreation system to enable long term use and enjoyment of Crown land by communities, regional and provincial residents and recreational user groups.

(f) To secure critical, high capability Crown range and timber lands required by the timber and range management programs of the Ministry of Forests.

2.4.4 Responsible Agencies

The Ministry of Environment - Fish & Wildlife Branch, Waste Management Branch and Water Management Branch, the Ministry of Lands, Parks & Housing - Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division and the Ministry of Forests - Timber, Range and Recreation Divisions will assume responsibility for management of SIMA lands, where appropriate. The MOF is responsible for co-ordinating the management of Crown renewable resources and other ministries will co-operate with the MOF and provide appropriate input.

2.4.5 Permitted Uses and Activities

(a) Fish and wildlife habitat management and enhancement programs.

(b) Watershed management activities of the Ministry of Environment.

(c) In critical wildlife habitat, non-tenured public recreational uses and activities compatible with wildlife habitat and management programs. These are generally land extensive, non-motorized and facility-independent activities.

(d) The enhancement of recreational enjoyment for the general public on lands that have high suitability for outdoor recreation facility development.

(e) Timber or range management activities that are planned and integrated with or designed to enhance fish and wildlife habitat management and/or recreation uses or for reduction of fire, insect or safety hazard on public land.

2.4.6 Conditional Uses and Activities

(a) Linear developments and roadways and their associated rights-of-way and easements may be permitted subject to:

i) conformity with impact mitigation, reclamation, aesthetic or other requirements specified by the responsible government agencies.

ii) Conformity with MLPH Roadways and Public and Private Utilities policies governing such developments.

iii) Conformity with performance requirements as outlined in Section 2.2.9 of General Provisions.

2.4.7 Planning and Management Guidelines

(a) The Ministry of Forests Act requires the co-ordination and integration of resource management programs and activities. This will be achieved by MOF through the C.R.M.P. process wherever these are in place.

(b) In critical/important fish and wildlife areas, Management Plans should be prepared by the Fish & Wildlife Branch in consultation with appropriate interest groups and concerned government agencies.

(c) Timber and range utilization plans and activities in SIMA fish and wildlife priority lands are to be developed in conjunction with the Ministry of Environment to ensure compatibility with the management goals and production targets of both agencies.

(d) Resource management programs in licensed watersheds shall respect current water use patterns and activities will be carried out in a manner that will not disrupt water supplies.

(e) Development of non-commercial outdoor recreation facilities e.g. campsites, trail systems, picnic areas, boat launches, etc. intended for recreational enjoyment of the general public may be initiated and developed by non-profit organizations or community associations under the guidance of the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division, MLPH or MOF to meet these agencies' management objectives. If such developments are outside of Provincial Forests, they are subject to MLPH policy on Community Organization use of Crown land.

2.4.b Implementation Process

(a) Crown lands designated SIMA are reserved under the Land Act, Section 13, solely for the programs and uses specified in this plan.

(b) Existing Land Act reserves currently in place in SIMA designated lands shall be replaced by (a) when the plan is adopted.

2.5 SETTLEMENT RESERVE AREA (SRA)

2.5.1 Definition

Crown lands with suitability for a range of future rural settlement-oriented uses and which should be reserved for such purposes until development for an appropriate use is considered.

2.5.2 General Description

(a) Crown land designated as Rural Settlement Areas by the S.R.M.T. Concept Plan with the capability for accommodating settlement uses in the 1 to 10 year and 10 to 20 year time frames.

(b) Crown land adjacent to existing rural settlement nodes that is suitable for anticipated and planned growth for appropriate rural residential, industrial, commercial, institutional or recreational uses.

(c) Boundaries are as yet undefined. Accurate delineation should occur via a planning program undertaken by the Regional District with the involvement of MLPH and review by Task Force agencies. When the results of the planning program are endorsed by these agencies, this Plan will be formally amended to incorporate the pertinent designations.

2.5.3 Purpose

(a) To identify and reserve sufficient Crown land to meet projected rural residential Crown land requirements in the selected settlement nodes of the Plan Area.

(b) To maintain future land use options by reserving Crown land for unforeseen future settlement requirements of the private and public sector until required for utilization.

(c) To protect valued Crown resource lands nearby the settlement nodes from inappropriate and unplanned settlement expansion uses.

(d) To provide suitable Crown land within the SRA for residential, industrial and commercial uses pursuant to the programs and land use policies of MLPH.

2.5.4 Responsible Agency

The Regional Operations Division of MLPH is responsible for the administration of SRA lands.

2.5.5 Permitted Uses and Activities

(a) Until such time as the SRA lands are required for settlement purposes, a full range of non-tenured uses.

(b) Rural Residential development as a result of a planned disposition program undertaken by Regional Operations Division, MLPH.

(c) Uses consistent with open space and buffer functions adjacent to settlement.

2.5.6 Conditional Uses and Activities

(a) Industrial, commercial, tourist-commercial, institutional and community recreation uses and activities may be permitted, provided that:

i) the proposed use is supported by local government zoning by-law or Official Settlement Plan policy and land designations;

ii) if no land use controls are in place, the proposed use is considered by MLPH to be compatible with adjacent land uses; and

iii) the proposed use meets the requirements of the specific MLPH policies governing these types of land uses.

(b) Linear developments, roadways and their associated rights-of-way and easements may be permitted, subject to:

i) conformity with MLPH Roadways and Public and Private Utilities policies;

ii) conformity with the performance requirements respecting linear developments as outlined in Section 2.2.9, General Provisions; and

iii) support from municipal government and affected provincial agencies.

(c) Application for public institutional uses shall be entertained on SRA lands, subject to conformity with Section 2.5.6(a) above and MLPH Institutional Land Use policy.

(d) As an interim measure, existing Land Act tenures shall continue provided that they are supported by the participating government agencies. If the use is considered to be inappropriate, mid-term renewal applications will not be approved and the tenure will expire at the end of its term.

(e) Sand and gravel extraction activities on SRA lands may be permitted, subject to conformity with Section 2.5.6(d) above and MLPH Quarry Materials policy, and provided that extraction is compatible with adjacent uses and is to occur in accordance with a submitted Management Plan for extraction and reclamation of the pit.

2.5.7 Planning and Management Guidelines

(a) Until Official Settlement Plans are completed, MLPH shall adjudicate applications and undertake planned disposition for permitted and conditional uses on the basis of current MLPH policy. Any dispositions would be referred to the Regional District and other affected agencies for comment.

(b) Major industrial uses and developments, other than for expansion of existing industrial uses, will be encouraged to locate in the serviced industrial areas of Cranbrook and the Elk Valley.

(c) For the first 5 to 10 year period of the plan, development shall be focussed on the settlement areas of Jaffray, Baynes Lake and Elko. For the 10 to 20 year period, if the available developable land has been fully utilized in the three above-mentioned communities and if warranted by demand, additional development can take place in Wardner and Bull River.

(d) Land development will be initially focussed on the core of the SRA with further development taking place on the periphery of the built up area in a sequential manner.

(e) New sand and gravel extractive operations on SRA lands may be permitted through Land Act leases, pursuant to the provisions of the Quarry Materials policy. Sites must be sequentially reclaimed to a post-extraction settlement use specified in the terms and conditions of the licence. Reclamation performance and compliance with an approved Pit Management Plan is a joint responsibility of MLPH and the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources.

(f) All development proposals for permitted and conditional uses in SRA lands shall be accompanied by a Development/Management Plan, which includes maps and text on site layout, services and infrastructure, and a development time schedule.

(g) Development proposals for settlement uses on SRA lands shall be referred to the Regional District for review and comment.

(h) Pursuant to MLPH Industrial Land Use policy, industrial development on SRA land is the responsibility of the B.C. Development Corporation, except for temporary industrial developments which do not exceed 5 years in duration and industrial development of foreshore which is governed by the General Commercial/Industrial Aquatic policy of MLPH. Except for the foregoing, SRA lands may be subleased to a third party for industrial use by the B.C. Development Corporation, which is also responsible for leasehold terms, conditions and amendments.

(i) Commercial and rural residential subdivision on SRA Crown lands shall be undertaken by MLPH or the private sector in accordance with MLPH policy.

(j) Rural residential development will consist of smaller lot sizes (e.g. 0.2 ha to 0.8 ha) depending on land availability, demand and site servicing requirements, so as not to rapidly exhaust the supply of developable land and must conform to MLPH policy in rural residential land use.

(k) Applications for community or municipal recreational use of SRA lands shall be referred to the Regional District and the Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division for review and comment. SRA land dispositions to non-profit organizations for recreational uses shall be made in accordance with MLPH Community Organizations policy.

2.5.8 Implementation Process

(a) Settlement Reserve Area Crown lands are reserved under the Land Act, Section 13, for the permitted and conditionally permitted uses specified in the Plan.

(b) SRA lands currently held under Section 11 or 12 Land Act reserve for settlement-oriented uses as described herein, including U.R.E.P's, shall remain under reserve for such purposes. On the renewal dates for these reserves, they will be replaced by Section 13 Reserves.

(c) All other existing Land Act reserves shall be cancelled, except those for sand and gravel extraction purposes, which shall be accommodated pursuant to Section 2.2.6, General Provisions. Cancelled reserve areas shall be designated under the Land Act, Section 13 for settlement purposes pursuant to the SRA land category of this Plan.

PART 3.0

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW AND AMENDMENT

PART 3. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION, REVIEW, AND AMENDMENT

3.1 Plan Adoption

(a) The Crown Land Plan shall be adopted by the Ministry of Lands, Parks and Housing. The Plan Map and policy guidelines shall direct the Ministry in its planning, management and disposition of unalienated Crown lands in the Plan Area. It shall also direct other government agencies with jurisdictional responsibilities within the Plan Area.

(b) Upon adoption by MLPH, the Crown land base shall be secured for the assigned land uses and activities through the appropriate Land Act Map Reserves and Designated Use Reserves specified under the Plan for each land category.

(c) The Regional District of East Kootenay is encouraged to utilize the information provided by this Plan and the Concept Plan in the preparation of zoning by-laws and Official Settlement Plans for the Settlement Reserve Areas designated in the Plan. MLPH will participate in this process and other Task Force agencies are to be consulted to ensure that the resultant settlement plans and zoning by-laws are compatible with the provisions of this Plan.

3.2 Plan Period and Formal Review

(a) The Plan shall be in effect for a period of five years from the date of its formal adoption. However, Crown land requirements and management activities, with the exception of agricultural expansion requirements, have been projected for the Plan Area over a twenty year time frame.

(b) A comprehensive formal review of this Plan shall be initiated five years from the date of its formal adoption and every five years thereafter. The review shall be initiated by MLPH and accomplished with the assistance of those agencies who have participated in the preparation of this Plan and others subsequently deemed to have an interest in Crown land use in the Plan Area.

3.3 Plan Refinement and Amendment

(a) MLPH shall continue to expand, update and refine its information base for the Plan Area, with the co-operation and assistance of other government agencies and the private sector.

(b) During the first five year period the Plan is in effect, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, in consultation with the local agricultural community and concerned member agencies of the Task Force, shall prepare a map indicating lands required and considered suitable for agricultural expansion purposes. At the time of the first formal review, the Plan will be amended to incorporate this information.

(c) The Regional Director, MLPH, may propose a formal amendment to this Plan at the request of a provincial government agency, if deemed appropriate, or where a Plan provision or designation proves unnecessary or is modified by changes in government policy or new information. The amendment and supporting documentation shall be reviewed and endorsed by the Regional Directors of the Task Force agencies, and if deemed necessary, endorsed by the Executive Committee of the MLPH. Necessary amendments to the appropriate Land Act reserves boundaries shall be made by the Regional Director.

(d) All Plan amendments shall be consistant with the goal and objectives of the Plan and with the mandate and responsibilities of the MLPH and the Task Force agencies.

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